EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH

A History Published in Observance of Our One Hundredth Anniversary

1857-1957

ROUTE 1, CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

Dedicated to everyone who has had a part in making it possible for this Centennial Celebration

OUR CHURCH BUILDING

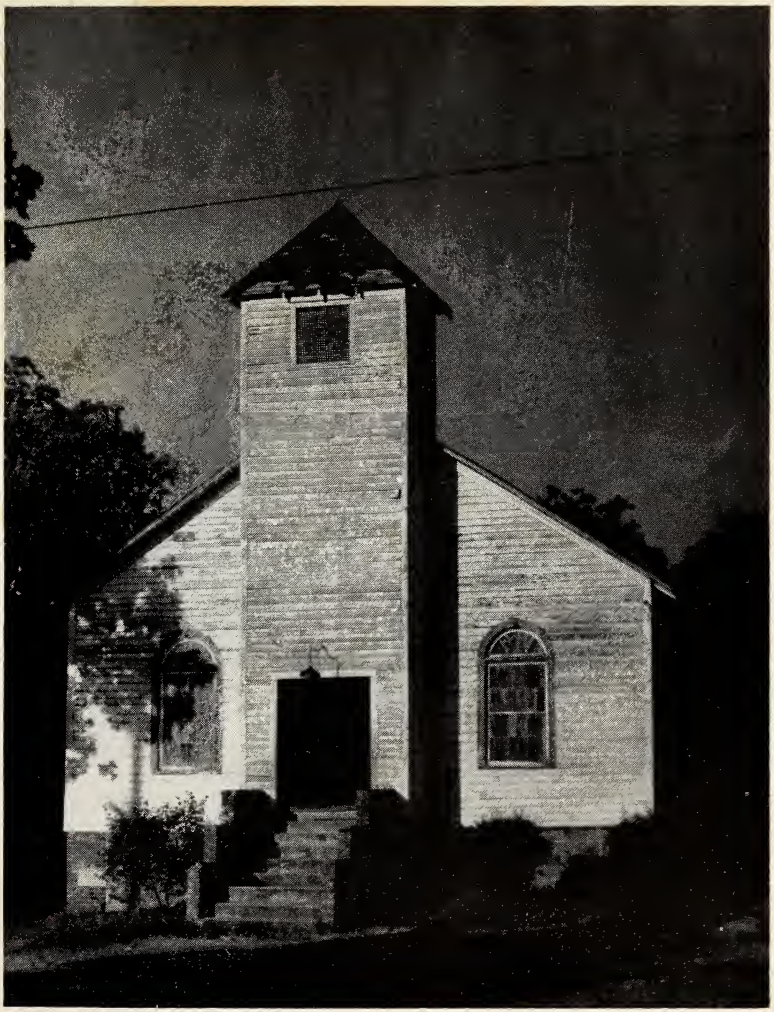
God builds no churches! By His plan,
That labor has been left to man.
    No spires miraculously rise,
    No little mission from the skies
Falls on the bleak and barren place
To be a source of strength and grace.
    The humblest church demands its price
    In human toil and sacrifice.

The humblest spire in mortal ken,
Where God abides was built by men.
    And if the church is still to grow,
    Is still the light of hope to throw
Across the valley of despair,
Men still must build God's House of Prayer.
    God sends no churches from the skies,
    Out of our hearts they must arise!

Edgar A. Guest

Humbly submitted,
Mrs. John Cooke
Church Historian

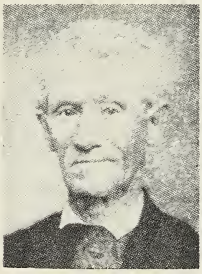
THE HISTORY OF THE EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH



Ephesus Baptist Church was constituted in 1857 as a mission by Rev. Dewey R. King, and was received into the association in the same year. The building used from 1857 to 1868, a one room frame structure, was located on the north side of the railroad.

During the year 1858, Joseph R. King served as pastor, with a membership of 27. There were also five new members in 1858. A total of ten dollars was given to missions that year. P. W. Dowd served as church moderator and D. B. Holland was church clerk. In the year 1859, the membership had increased to 36 with Rev. J. J. James of Raleigh as pastor. Brother W. J. Holleman and J. J. King were sent to the association as delegates.

In 1860 the white membership numbered 39 and the colored membership numbered 3. Colored people continued on the roll until 1873. Rev. Johnson Olive served the church as pastor during 1860, and 1867. The Rev. A. D. Blackwood, who served as pastor the following year, was also pastor of Salem Church, thus setting a tradition which several of our pastors have followed since that time.



Johnson Olive

George J. Dowell

In 1865 the Sixtieth session of the Raleigh Association met with Ephesus Church with a former pastor, Rev. A. D. Blackwood, serving as moderator for the association.

During the years 1865 to 1875, the following served as pastors: Rev. P. W. Dowd, Johnson Olive, James C. Marcom, and George J. Dowell. A contribution of $11.50 was sent to the church at Rome in 1872. The first recorded collection for missions was taken in 1873 with $7.00 for State Missions, and $3.00 for Foreign Missions.

The growth of the church continued. There were 25 added to the church by baptism during the year, making a total of 111 Members. A Sunday School was reported in 1878 while Rev. T. Harrison served as pastor. The total expenses of the church for the year were $105.92. Seventy-five dollars was paid for the pastor's salary. There was one subscription to the Biblical Recorder in 1880.

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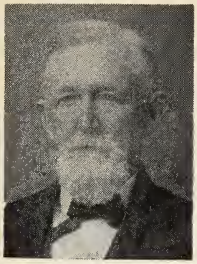
H. W. Norris

In 1884 the Sunday School had an enrollment of 88. There were 7 teachers and officers under the leadership of Rev. J. R. Maynard, the pastor. Five dollars was paid to Rev. David Edwards for helping and conducting protracted meetings. Brother A. J. King was appointed trustee to fill the office of his deceased father. W. D. Williams was appointed Supt. of the Sunday School. Much work was done and noticeable progress made during the 9 years. Brother Maynard served as pastor. There were 9 people added to the church during protracted meeting, 8 of which were baptized Monday following the meeting in July. In November of the same year, the roll of members was called and the amount each person had contributed to the church was also reported to the entire congregation. In previous years, one person served as church clerk for a short and indefinite time, but Mr. W. J. Holleman served for 5 consecutive years. Fifty cents was paid Mr. Holleman for a communion set for the church. Twelve noon on Saturday was set as the time for church services, all members were expected to be present or give a very good reason at next church conference. In church conference the rules of decorum were very often read to the members. In 1889 this amendment was added: Any member who drinks intoxicants as a beverage or goes in a barroom will be discontinued as in fellowship with the church.

The church in conference would often seek the Welfare of its members and if there were those who were not in harmony with the church and their fellow man, a person or committee was appointed to visit and counsel them. A contribution of $10.41 was given to the orphanage in 1889. In 1890 it was recorded that the names of the female members of church were called for the first time. In conference some of the church members were interviewed for dancing and promised not to do it again. In our records of the past we find one set of twins in our church membership. Joel and Joseph Powers united with the church and were baptized in September 1890 and September 1891 respectively. In 1892 W. W. White reported that a deed for two acres of land

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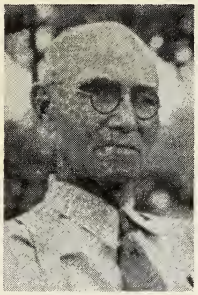
to Ephesus Church was recorded on page 122 of the register of deeds in 1868. In the year 1893 Mrs. Halloway took care of the cleaning of the church for 25¢ a month. There is a record of church conference being held at night in August 1893. There was at that time a membership of 24 males and 34 females. The total expenses of the Sunday School for the year were $20.00.


Charles H. Utley

A. C. Cree

R. S. Stephenson

C. A. Upchurch

E. M. Lassiter

Pastors serving the church from 1893 to 1910 were: Brothers Charles H. Utley, A. C. Cree, W. Y. Chappell, W. J. Frye, J. S. Haywood, J. D. Bowens, R. S. Stephenson, C. A. Upchurch, J. L. Martin and E. M. Lassiter. In 1898 the church was painted at a cost of $48.00. The same year the Womans Missionary Society gave $2.15 to missions. Rev. J. D. Bowens of Pender county was called as pastor of the church for the year 1900. He was ordained in this

church July 8, 1900, by the Presbytery of Dr. T. E. Skinner, Dr. A. A. Marshall of First Baptist Church of Raleigh and Rev. W. D. Hubbard pastor of Tabernacle Church of Raleigh. This was recorded by F. D. Castlebury, church clerk. On March 31, 1901 the following were elected and ordained as deacons: Brothers S. A. Medlin, J. N. Halloway, and Joel Powers.

The pastor's salary was increased to $75.00 for the same year. In 1905 J. M. Luther, Church clerk, recorded the sexton's salary being raised to $6.00 for the year. Pastor's salary was increased to $100.00 a year. J. M. Luther was also Supt. of Sunday School with 98 on roll. The Womans Missionary Union, with Mrs. Cynthia Hurst as president and a membership of 17, contributed $16.40 to missions. Ephesus church reported beginning a Young Womans Auxiliary as early as 1909. This report was made at the W.M.U. meeting in McCullers, N. C. In 1910 Rev. R. E. Atkins was called as pastor. He served faithfully for 14 years. Six men served as Supt. of Sunday School during that time. They were: J. M. Luther, Robert Jones, M. C. Chappell, M. A. Wilder, J. E. Franklin, and Peter Powers.

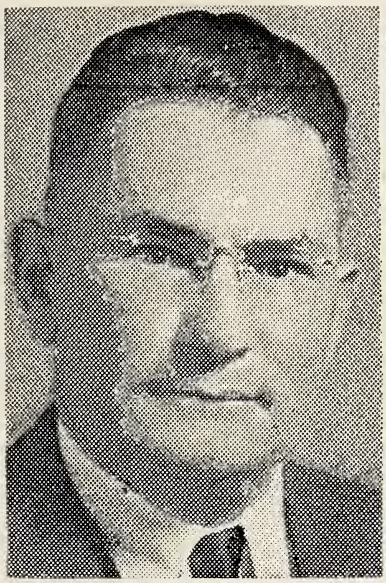
R. E. Atkins

Each year the church appointed a committee to collect for missions. In 1911, Misses Iona Powers and Mallie Morgan were appointed as mission collectors. Miss Chloe Lockamy and Lena Hurst were appointed to serve on this committee. In 1912, Brother Sam Wilder was added to the board of deacons. In 1915 the church was growing and showing rapid progress. The pastor's salary had been increased to $175.00 per year. The Womans Missionary Society was functioning with Mrs. R. C. Clifton as president. There was an active B.Y.P.U. in the church in 1916 of which M. A. Wilder was president. In 1918 the pastor Rev. R. E. Atkins was pastor of four other churches namely, Caraleigh, Swift Creek, Salem, and Reedy Creek. Ephesus increased his salary to $250.00 per annum.

In 1920 in conference the church voted to use the envelope system for all church funds. Heretofore, all expenses had been obtained by freewill offerings.

Absentees from church conference were always noted. In 1922 the church in conference voted to put on the inactive roll all persons who had not shown any interest in the past year. In the same conference the church voted to call the roll of members quarterly instead of monthly. In May a day was set aside for all friends and members to meet and clean up the church yards and cemetery. Those not attending paid $2.50 to upkeep Comm. The same year (1922) two brothers, named Paul and Francis Hardy joined the church. Mr. Paul Hardy served the church in several capacities. He was church clerk for three years. He was also Sunday School Supt. About 14 years ago, he visited the church and announced that he had been called to preach the gospel. He attended Wake Forest College and was later ordained into the ministry. Today we pray God's richest blessings upon him as he serves two churches at Reidsville. In 1923 the church in conference discussed and adopted song books to be purchased as soon as money could be secured. In the same conference the B.Y.P.U. was recognized as a part of the church for training and developing the young and old for better Christian service. The church thanked the B.Y.P.U. and Mrs. S. W. Eason for the piano. In December of 1923 Rev. Roy A. Morris of Wake Forest was called as pastor. Early in 1924 the church voted to replace the carbide lighting system with electric lights, getting the current from the power company in Raleigh. The church, realizing that it had outgrown its building, appointed a committee with Mr. S. E. Seymour as Chairman assisted by Mr. W. T. Cooper and Mr. Charlie Williams, to make immediate plans for a new building. Peter Powers was elected financial secretary. The Fidelis Class raised $58.85 to be applied on the new church. The church provided seats outside to take care of several classes during the summer. In December 1926 an every member canvass was taken with Grover Henderson as chairman of the committee.

The church in conference in April 1926 decided to double the number of members on the board of deacons. The Rev. C. H. Norris was called as pastor. Brother Norris sensed in the very beginning the inadequacy of the church building in which devotions and Sunday School were being conducted. This condition had already been realized by the leaders of



Roy A. Morris

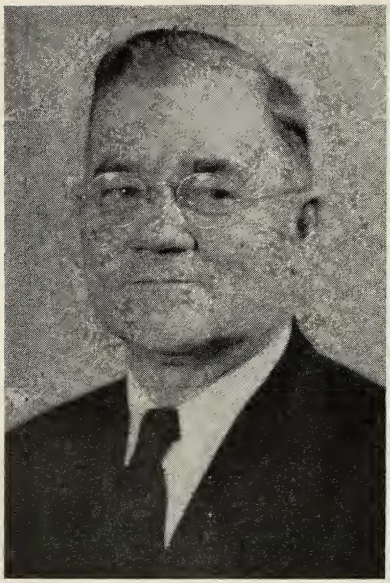
Rev. C. H. Norris

the church; the land was already secured and some money appropriated to be applied on the new building. Without the energy exercised by Brother Norris in seeking further contributions and labour, the program could not have been completed, not in weeks, or months, but years. Many thanks to Rev. C. H. Norris.

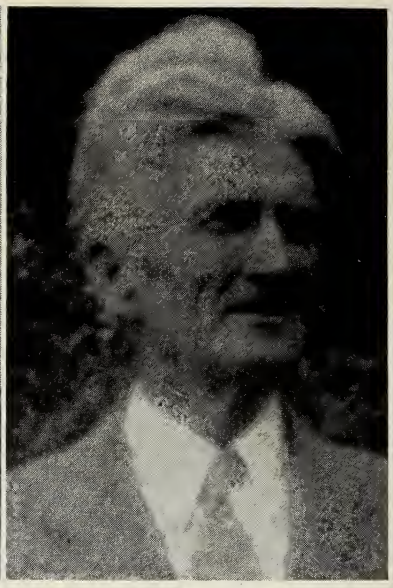
The building of brick veneer consists of an auditorium, with a seating capacity of 350, ten class rooms, a basement, belfry, bell, hammered glass windows, 7 of which are memorialized. In August 1930 a large Bible was presented to the church by Mrs. Joseph Powers and family. The stained memorial window in front of the church was dedicated to Mrs. Martha Castlebury.

The present pews were bought and installed by the church in 1939. The old pews were given to colored people to use in first building used by Ephesus. The same year a church library was opened for public use. New hymn books

were also bought for the church. At a regular church conference in 1941 it was proposed, and a motion was made by a church member, that the women whose untiring efforts had contributed so greatly to the church should be recognized in the body of government. The following were elected as deaconesses of the church: Mrs. R. L. Jones, Mrs. W. D. Bashford, Mrs. Mary Franklin, Mrs. Bessie Yates, and Mrs. James Smith. Mrs. Smith was re-elected to the office in 1935, while Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Jones were re-elected in 1936.

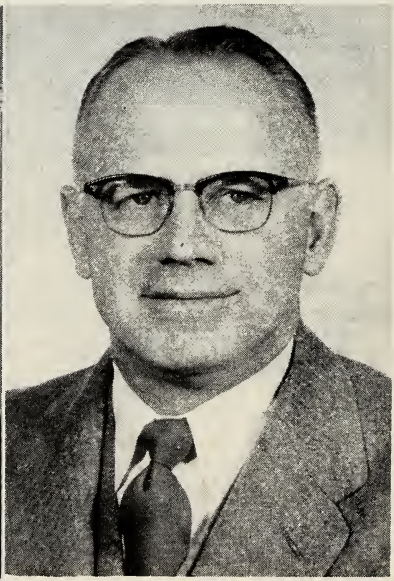


C. H. Henderson

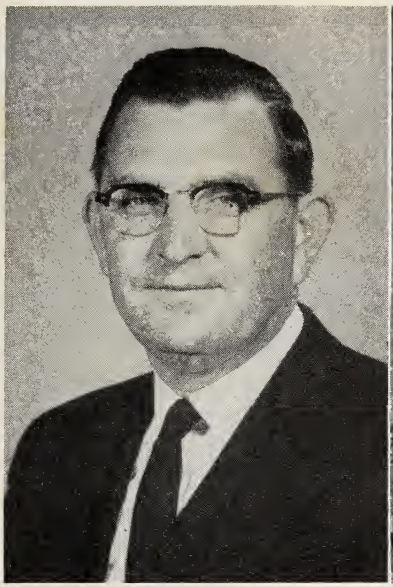


T. Y. Seymour

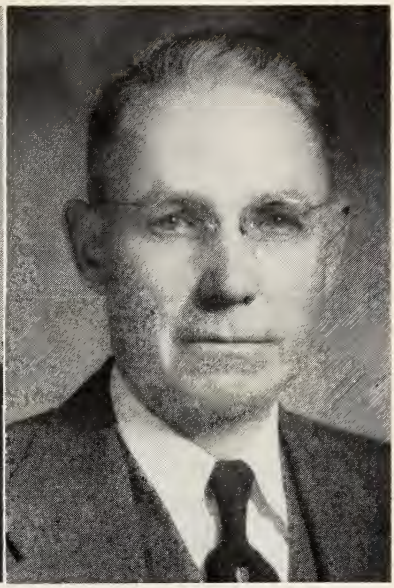
S. L. Morgan



William Poole



William B. Cone



J. Gray Murray

Pastors serving the church since 1927 are: Rev. C. H. Henderson, Rev. T. Y. Seymour, Rev. S. L. Morgan, Rev. William Poole, Rev. William Cone, and Rev. J. Gray Murray, all of whom have served the church loyally, devotedly, and most of all unselfishly for the love of their Saviour and Fellowman. There have been numerous people who have given many years of their time and service for the promotion of the church.

Mr. George Marsh, who started teaching young men, adults, and older men as a combination class about 30 years ago had his membership at another church as did his family. Mr. Marsh continued to come to Ephesus and teach the much loved class. For many years he supported a missionary, in the name of the class. Later the class added to the contribution which supported Miss Ruth Randall who was a missionary in Chile for about 15 years. After the passing of Mr. Marsh to his heavenly reward, the class to which he had been so loyal and faithful was named in his honor, "The George Marsh Bible Class."

Mr. Shelton Keith who is still with us served the Sunday School as Supt. for 17 years. His wife Clyde Keith has taught the Beginner Class for 20 years.

Mr. Dawson Strother has served as church clerk since 1927 with the exception of two or three years.

Mr. C. L. Dellinger and his family have served as custodians of the church for 14 years.

In 1949 a need was felt for an increase in the number on the board of deacons. There were only 5 on the board at that time, so 4 were added to the Senior board of deacons. A Junior Board of Deacons was set up consisting of 9 members. A rotating system was put into effect on both the Senior and Junior Board of Deacons.

In late 1950 Mrs. Berta Holland and R. H. Williams realized the need for better equipment and training for our Junior age children since our Sunday School was not departmentalized. They met and had assembly programs in the basement of the church. Sensing that they needed a piano it was presented to church conference and R. H. Williams was authorized to secure a piano. A part of the money had already been raised. On March 7, Mr. Williams reported the purchase of a piano which was approved and accepted.

Our Church, in cooperation with other churches throughout the association in promoting and conducting a simultaneous revival, began its revival services March 25, 1951. Upon a recommendation from the board of deacons, 10 percent of offering received during revival was sent to Raleigh Baptist Association to help defray expenses of Simultaneous Revival Advertising.

Rev. W. B. Cone, a former pastor, assisted our Pastor, Rev. J. Grey Murray, in bringing the Evangelistic Messages. Mr. John Boswell conducted the music for the revival services.

On Sunday evening April 15, 1951, 14 candidates who came into the church during revival were baptized at Salem Baptist Church.

Our pastor, realizing that our church needed to take some positive, forward steps for expansion had a called con-

ference with the Senior Board of Deacons, and on Sunday May 20 the entire Church in Conference was asked (1) to think and pray about the matter of going on a full time pastoral program. (2) It was also recommended we observe Home Coming on June 17. We enjoyed a wonderful worship and fellowship service together, on that date, concluded by a picnic lunch on the church grounds. (3) The building committee was instructed to obtain some building plans, and proceed to get cost of said building. (4) Realizing it would be very wise to have each organization represented on the finance committee, a motion was made and approved that each year the Supt. of Sunday School, B.T.U. Director, and Pres. of the W.M.S. automatically become members of the finance committee.

On July 1st in a special called Conference, the Church voted on whether or not we should go on a full time program. An overwhelming majority voted for full time service in our church thus creating a vacancy in our pulpit.

The Senior Board of Deacons recommended and the Church elected the following to act and fulfill the duties of a pulpit committee: D. O. Smith, Ch., Mrs. John Cooke, Mrs. O. R. Weaver, C. E. Watkins, and R. S. Keith.

In Conference Aug. 8, Mr. C. L. Dellinger, Church Custodian, was instructed to rent a safe deposit box for keeping deeds and Insurance polices. A bulletin board, to be placed in the vestibule was presented to the church by the Builders Class, Master Workers, and Fellowship Class.

With a recommendation from the pulpit committee the Church invited Rev. L. M. Woolweaver to preach for us the second Sunday in October, 1951.

Nov. 4 the following deacons were ordained into our Church with Rev. P. D. Miller from Apex leading the ordination prayer and delivering the Charge: Mr. R. O. Hammons, Mr. O. L. Hall, Mr. C. E. Gregory, and Mr. W. T. Pearson.

Mr. Murray, our supply pastor, represented our Church at the State Baptist Convention in Asheville Nov. 13, through the 15, 1951. On Dec. 5, Rev. J. Grey Murray tendered his resignation as supply pastor effective Dec. 31, 1951 due to the fact he had been asked to serve a two month full-time trial period at Salem Church. The conference voted to accept Mr. Murray's resignation.

Sunday, Dec. 9, in a special called conference, the Pulpit committee recommended that the Church call Rev. L. M. Woolweaver as full time pastor of our Church. With a rising vote the motion was made and carried that he be called for full time Service.

Sunday, Dec. 30, the Senior Board of Deacons made the following recommendations: (1) that the Church authorize the Trustees to accept a lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Strother for construction thereon of a parsonage, said lot located on road to Mr. Frank Strother's home, (2) that the Trustees be empowered to have a parsonage erected on said lot.

The trustees were authorized by the Church to borrow any money necessary for completion of the parsonage from the building fund. This loan was to be replaced at the completion of the building.

The deed to this property was made Jan. 5, 1952 in Wake County, Cary Township, N. C. It is recorded in book 614, page 569, Wake County Registry, Witnessed by G. J. Cornell Sr. N.P. (seal). The parsonage being erected and completed was occupied by Rev. L. M. Woolweaver and Family in May. He assumed his full time pastoral services on May 1, 1952. Jan. 9, 1952 the Church Clerk was authorized to write a letter of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Strother.

Through his farsight and great love for music, R. H. Williams, through the board of Deacons, recommended that the Church purchase an Organ. The price was to be $3090. It was agreed that all collections on each second Sunday be applied on the Organ. This was done; the organ was purchased and paid for, and is used at each worship service to enrich our music for the glory of God.

Our pastor Rev. L. M. Woolweaver conducted his first revival since becoming our fulltime pastor. There were ten added to the church during these services.

Sunday, June 5, at Cary Church the candidates were baptized.

Wednesday evening Oct. 15, 1952 the following were ordained as deacons: C. E. Watkins, R. W. Holland, and E. W. Wicker. Rev. G. W. Bullard of Temple Baptist Church of Raleigh delivered the evening message.

In October of 1953 the church was called into a special conference to discuss plans for a much needed educational building as submitted by the building committee. These plans were adopted and the building committee, composed of D. L. Early, H. M. Dyson, Lewis Hatley, Rev. L. M. Woolweaver, with Mr. C. L. Lawrence as building fund treasurer, were authorized to secure a contractor.

Sunday Morning October 18, 1953 following the worship service the ground breaking was held, with Mr. Bill Cooper, the Church's oldest active member, shoveling the first spade of ground.

Mr. Vick took the contract and erected the three story brick educational building, consisting of four assembly rooms, 16 class rooms, an office and a library, three baths, and the kitchen, and the baptistry which was painted by Walter Keul. The baptistry was unveiled in an appropriate ceremony Sept. 19, 1954.

The following is the slate of officers for the new departmentalized Sunday School: Mr. D. O. Smith, General Supt.; Mr. John Pittard, Supt. of Adult Dept.; Mrs. M. M. Glosson, teacher of girls; Mrs. J. S. Pittard, Supt. of Junior Dept.; Mr. C. M. Thompson, Bland Franklin, and C. E. Gregory, teachers of the junior boys; Miss Louise Davis, Supt. of Young Peoples Dept.; Mr. J. C. Wells, Supt. of Intermediate Dept.

March 27, 1955, a beautiful brass flower urn was presented to the church by the Myrtle Cooke Class, and the Celester Memorial Class in loving memory of Mrs. Edna Dollar, a late member of the class.

Sept. 8, 1955, the Senior Board of Deacons recommended that our Church observe its Centennial in 1957. This was adopted and the date for celebration was left to be decided by a committee composed of Mrs. John Cooke, Mr. R. H. Williams and R. W. Holland.

In the same conference the Finance committee and board of deacons recommended installing Air Conditioning in our Church at a cost of about $11,000. Mr. B. C. Hewitt had agreed to inscribe the date the church was organized in the corner stone. This being completed, he was sent a letter of appreciation from the Church by our Church clerk.

The Church in conference agreed and voted that any candidate for membership in our church should be received into full fellowship only after submitting to baptism, by immersion, except such candidates as had previously been baptized into a fellowship of like faith and order.

April 1, 1956 Brother Belvin Cox, feeling he had been called to the ministry, made application to the Church and was licensed to preach, pending further study before ordination. He is now studying at Campbell College.

Sunday evening April 1, 1956, our pastor, Rev. L. M. Woolweaver, baptized twenty-three candidates who had recently become members of our church.

June 1956 Mr. R. F. Wilson presented to the Church a bird bath which is located on the front lawn of the Church.

Nov. 16, 1955, the Finance committee and Senior board of Deacons recommended that the Church purchase a parcel of land which adjoined the northwest side of the church property (known as the Hodge property). The purchasing price was set at $4500. The Finance and property committee were authorized to negotiate the purchase because our Church was in need of the property for additional parking space, and the building for Sunday School expansion. The purchase was made and the house is being used for classes each Sunday morning.

For the past five years our church has shown a marked increase in membership, cooperation, and gifts.

In 1951 69 were on B.T.U. roll
In 1956 138 were on B.T.U. roll
In Sunday School in 1951 337 were on roll
In Sunday School in 1956 460 were on roll

The Womans Missionary Union is a very vital and active part of our Church. The W.M.U. has grown from a small group of 20 or 30, fifteen years ago, to an enrollment of 75 today, with 5 circles being named for the following missionaries: Ruth Randal, Katie Murray, Foy Farmer, Virginia Miles, and Jane McRae. The Mary Woolweaver circle is named for the wife of our present pastor.

We have all the junior organizations from Sunbeams through Y.W.A.'s. In each organization, the basic purpose is

to train us in missions, Bible study, and giving.

A W.M.S. was reported in our Church as early as 1898. In 1905 Mrs. Cynthia Hurst was President. An offering of $2.15 was given to missions that year. Again in 1915 Mrs. R. C. Clifton was reported as president with an enrollment of 17.

All hearts were filled with a prayer of Thanksgiving as we held our first service in the new Educational Building April 24, 1954. Of the 357 enrolled there were 273 present.

Thirteen pews were added to fill the additional space in sanctuary since new educational building had been completed.

A gift of two chairs to be used with our communion table was given by Mrs. T. L. Kidd in memory of her husband.

March 22, 1955

To Those Who Served in Love:

We, the members of Ephesus Baptist Church, moved by a deep sense of appreciation, and believing as did the wise man of old, that "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pitchers of silver," do hereby attempt to express our heartfelt gratitude to you who served faithfully and unstintingly during our recent building program. To all who labored, to all who gave, and to all who prayed, we express our sincere thanks.

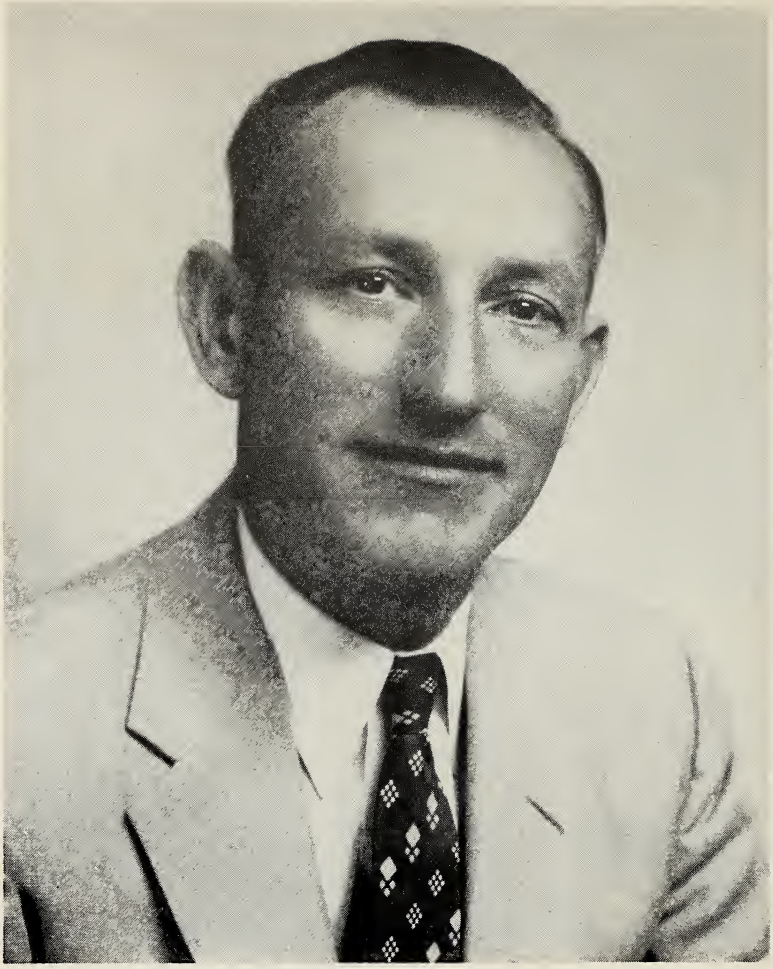
Among those of whom special mention should be made, perhaps, are Mr. R. S. Keith, Mr. Esten Jones, and Mr. C. L. Dellinger, trustees; Mr. O. L. Hall, Church Treasurer; Mr. C. L. Lawrence, Building Fund Treasurer; Dr. D. O. Smith, Mr. O. L. Hall, Mrs. Carl Hunsucker, Mrs. C. T. Aycock, Mr. Lawrence, and Mr. R. H. Williams, members of the finance committee; Mrs. Clyde Cooper, Mrs. B. T. Duncan, Mr. C. L. Dellinger, Mr. D. L. Early, Mr. Lewis Hatley, Mr. R. W. Holland, Mr. R. S. Keith, and Mrs. D. O. Smith, members of the property committee. And last, but not least, Mr. Hugh Dyson, Mr. D. L. Early, and the Reverend L. M. Woolweaver, members of the building committee.

Invaluable service was rendered also by members of both the junior and senior deacon boards, and by a great host of loyal members and friends, whose names are too numerous to list. To all of these we acknowledge our indebtedness and express our gratitude.

Respectfully,
Mrs. R. L. Wickham
Church Secretary

Mrs. W. D. Bashford joined Ephesus Church when she was 13 years of age. She served the church in many capacities during her active years in the community. She is 84 years old. She now makes her home at 1513 Hanover St., Raleigh.

Mrs. Bill Cooper came from Mt. Olivet to Ephesus Church when she was around forty years of age. She was always very attentive at Church services. She is now 83 years old. Mrs. Cooper now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Vera Midgett, on Grand Ave., Raleigh.

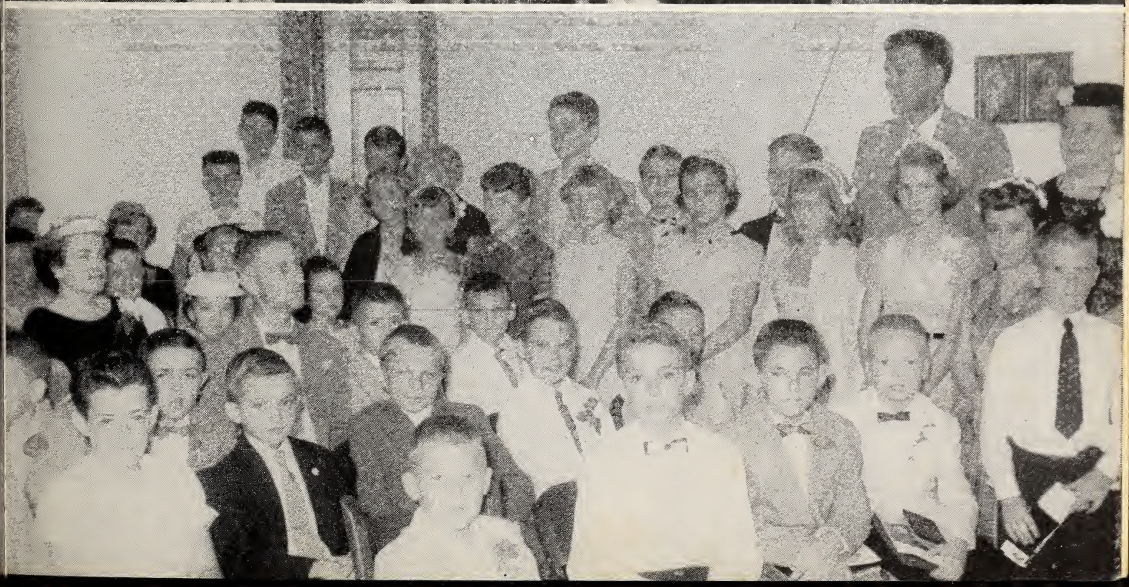


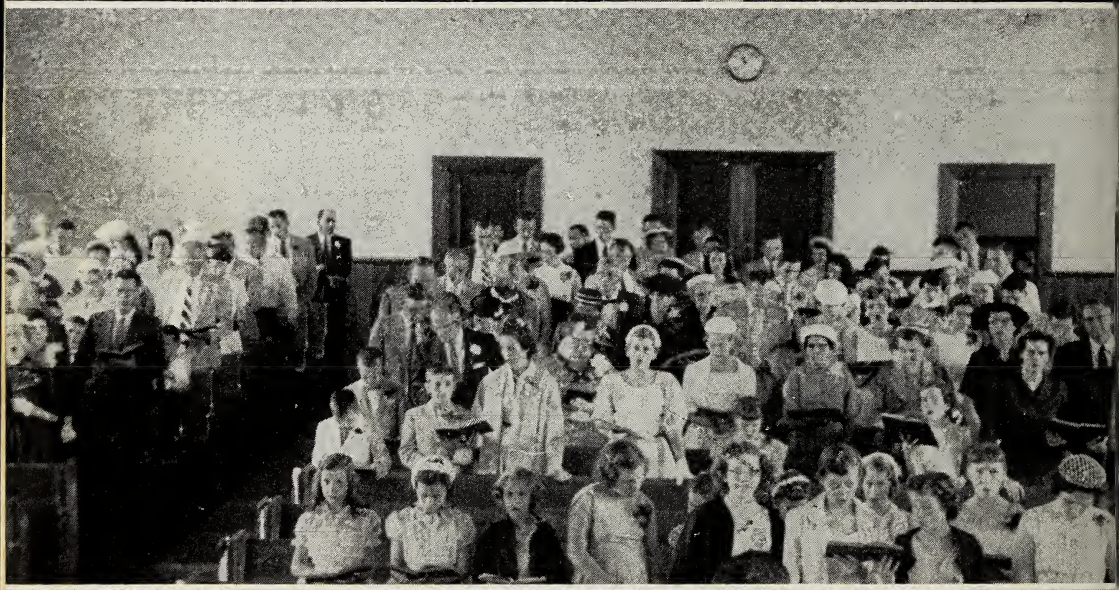
Rev. L. M. Woolweaver was born and reared in Ohio, but has lived and worked in N. C. for many years. He and Mrs. Woolweaver received their training at Southwestern Seminary in Texas. The two of them have proved to be great shepherds in leading our flock the past five years. We can truly say these have been our most fruitful years of growth and expansion since the organization of the Church.

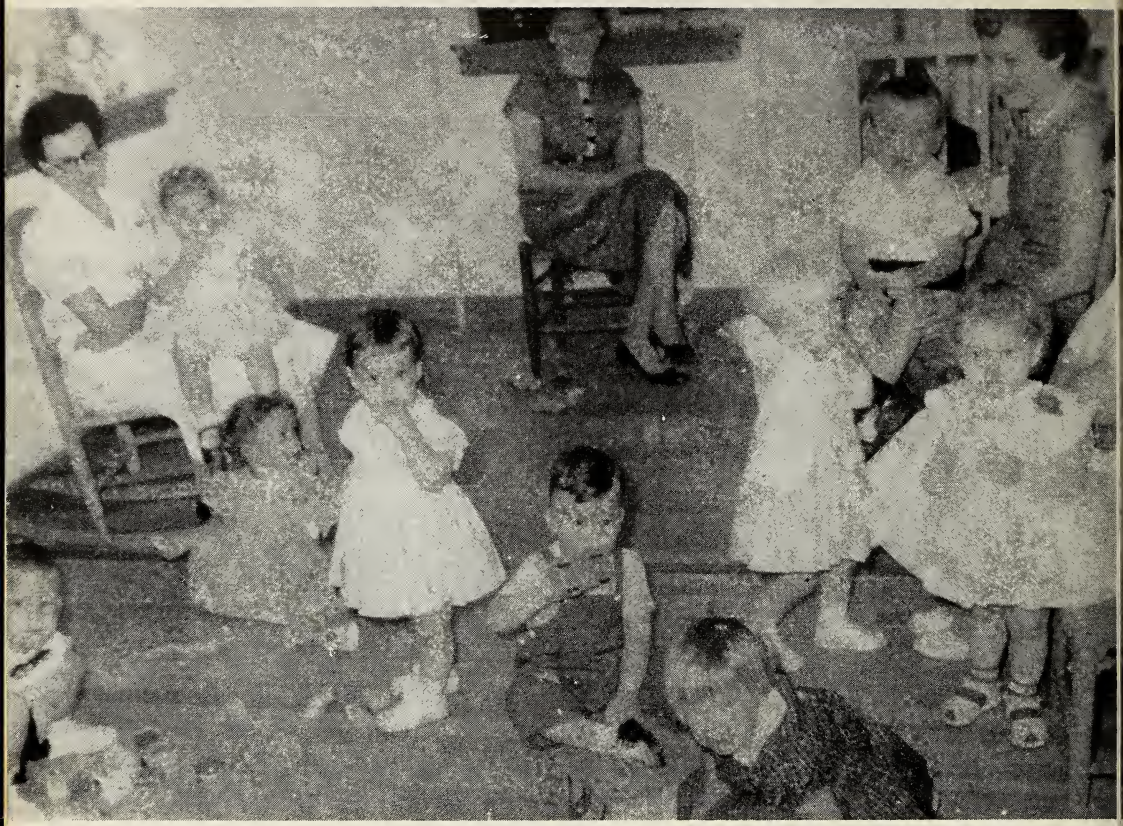
Mrs. Woolweaver is active in W.M.S. work. She teaches young people and serves in many capacities but most of all she is our choir director. She has three active choirs which add much to each worship service in the Church.

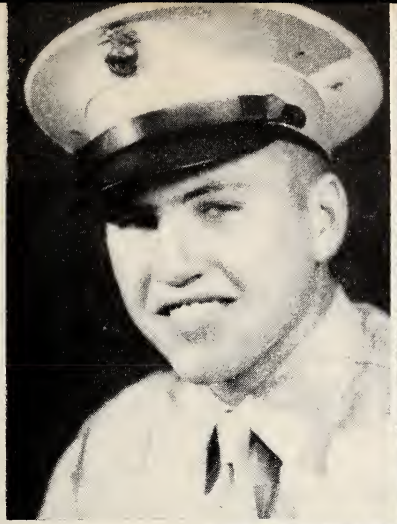
We pray that God will continue to bless us and the Woolweavers as we continue to work and serve together for the glory and honor of Christ Who gave His all for us.

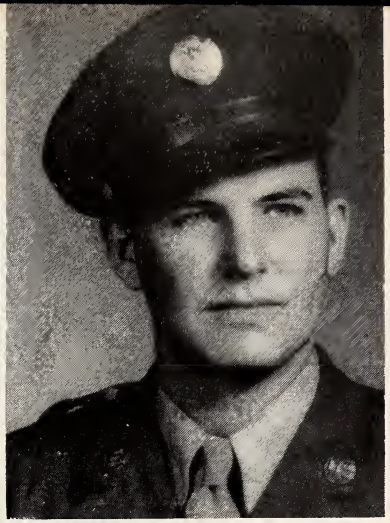
Those not present when picture made of choir: Mrs. O. L. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Halley, Mrs. Boone, Mr. B. C. Hewitt.











During the years of World War II there were 69 young men from our church and community who served in the armed forces. Each quarter they were contacted and written to by Mrs. John Cooke who assumed that responsibility, and was glad to render the service from our church to the young men who were away from home. Booklets containing Daily Bible readings and the Sunday School lessons were also sent to them each quarter.

Of the 60 there were 3 who made the supreme sacrifice. Two from one family. This space is dedicated to them.

Charles Dellinger
Howard Dellinger
Warren Pace

THE HISTORY OF THE EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH

My writing of this history of Ephesus Baptist Church, from its organization to June 16, 1957, incomplete as it may be, would have been impossible were it not for (1) Ancient and modern records and manuscripts. (2) Voices of the Fathers, and (3) Living members to supplant, inform, and fill in gaps which otherwise would have been long, uninteresting, and blank.

I want to give credit to the following people who have assisted me most unselfishly to the best of their ability.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Strother
Mr. Peter Powers
Mr. D. E. Strother
R. H. Williams and R. W. Holland
Harry Holland
Dr. G. W. Paschel of Wake Forest, now deceased
My husband—John H. Cooke
My son, and Daughter, who did the typing—
Quincy Cooke
Gayle Cooke